

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Join Us in Facing AIDS: World AIDS Day 2008

World AIDS Day honors the global effort toward building awareness and promoting prevention of HIV/AIDS. This annual event also commemorates the millions of lives affected by this disease and celebrates progress made in the battle against this pandemic. It also serves as a reminder that there are many challenges left in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program is proud to stand with thousands of national, regional and local HIV/AIDS service organizations in observing World AIDS Day on December 1, 2008. The 2008 World AIDS Day theme is "Facing AIDS." The theme challenges governments, policy makers, groups and individuals to become involved in the care and respect of those living with HIV and AIDS. It reminds us that we need every individual to make a commitment and contribution in order to end this pandemic. Each one of us has a role to play in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affects people around the world in overwhelming numbers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 1,106,400 people in the United States are living with HIV; with 56,300 new HIV infections occurring each year. One in five people living with HIV (21%) are unaware of their infection. Over the past 25 years a total of 5,408 individuals have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in San Bernardino County; including 59 children. HIV affects all races and ethnicities, with people of color bearing the greatest burden. The continual increase of HIV cases heightens the need for more prevention and risk-reduction measures.

To commemorate World AIDS Day 2008, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program, along with our community partners, invites you to be a part of the following events. World AIDS Day 2008 events will feature free HIV antibody counseling and testing, informational booths and many other activities. All are welcome!

Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM)
Sunday, November 30, 2008
1354 North G Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405
Time: 5:30pm – 9:00pm
(909) 381-6921

Brothers and Sisters in Action (BASIA)
Saturday, December 6, 2008
Rialto City Hall
150 South Palm Avenue
Rialto, CA 92376
Time: 8:00am-2:00pm
www.basia92376.org/id111.html

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The San Bernardino County AIDS Program also provides HIV antibody testing and counseling in the cities of San Bernardino, Hesperia and Ontario. For more information regarding HIV testing, hours of service or other Public Health programs, please contact the **San Bernardino County AIDS Program (909) 383-3060 or 1-800-255-6560**. Please also visit our website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/pubhlth/> to see additional World AIDS Day events as they are added.

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